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Controversial CIA Aide Picked for NSC Staff

Politico-Military Official Quits, Testifies

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Incoming national security adviser Frank C. Carlucci has picked ~~Frank~~ W. Ermarth, a controversial figure in the U.S.-Soviet field, as his senior expert on relations with Moscow as another controversial figure, Howard J. Teicher, resigned from the National Security Council (NSC) staff.

Ermarth, who has served since January 1984 as national intelligence officer for the Soviet Union at the Central Intelligence Agency, worked at the NSC on Soviet affairs for the last 2½ years of the Carter administration.

A former colleague familiar with Ermarth's work for Carter described him as a "hawk with a lot of fancy ideas about how to change things" in U.S.-Soviet relations but who "never did find out how to operate" to create a consensus for government action.

This official, who asked not to be quoted by name, said Ermarth had been much more critical of the SALT II strategic arms treaty in internal discussions than was his boss and sponsor at the time, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and expressed doubt that Ermarth would be effective in helping forge new U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements.

A source close to the selection process, who confirmed that Ermarth is Carlucci's choice, said he was "at the top of everyone's list" to head the Soviet section of the NSC in the last two years of Reagan's administration, and that CIA Director William J. Casey had been reluctant to let Ermarth go to a new post. He will replace former ambassador to Czechoslovakia Jack F. Matlock Jr., a Foreign Service officer and longtime Soviet specialist.

Informed officials also said Jose S. Sorzano, a naturalized Cuban who served as deputy to Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick at the United Nations in 1983-85, has been picked by Carlucci to be NSC director of Latin American affairs.

Sorzano is now associate professor of government at Georgetown University and president of the Cuban American National Foundation. This research and advocacy organization was reported to be among sponsors of the Miami rally last Tuesday at which White House communications director Patrick J. Buchanan praised former NSC officials Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver L. North and attacked news coverage of the Iran-contra controversy.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, meanwhile, announced the resignation of Teicher, who has been senior director of politico-military affairs since May and who served as chief of NSC's Near East and South Asia section since March 1982.

Last night Teicher testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on his role in secret U.S. arms sales to Iran. Through his attorney, Robert Bennett, Teicher told The Washington Post before his testimony that he had "absolutely no involvement with contra matters" and "absolutely no knowledge of the alleged diversion of [Iranian] funds to the contras."

Teicher was quoted by his attorney as saying that his involvement in arms sales to Iran was "policy-oriented, not operational." According to earlier congressional testimony, Teicher accompanied North and former national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane on a secret mission to Tehran last May.

The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that Teicher and the late Donald Fortier, then a senior NSC official, first recommended U.S. "material aid" to Iran in a draft National Security Decision Directive in June 1985.

Speakes said Teicher was resigning "because there's a new national security director, and . . . for what he describes as personal reasons." The spokesman said Teicher will remain at NSC until the end of March.

Earlier this year, several publications identified Teicher as a source of an Aug. 25 Wall Street Journal report that the United States and Libya were again on a collision course. The article, and Teicher's role, later figured in a controversy over President Reagan's approval of an NSC-generated "disinformation" plan designed to

frighten Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Through his attorney, Teicher said he had "absolutely nothing to do with any disinformation campaign" and that he had passed a polygraph test and a Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry that established he had made "no unauthorized disclosures of any kind" during the disinformation controversy.

Another White House official said, however, that Teicher was deeply involved in the Libya "disinformation" controversy and that, "I think the FBI asked him the wrong questions."

Amid growing speculation about the identity of key NSC staff officials who will serve under Carlucci when he takes office early next month, an administration official acting as his spokesman said late yesterday that Carlucci "expressed displeasure with various inaccurate and unauthorized news reports alleging his dissatisfaction with the NSC staff."

The spokesman said Carlucci holds the current staff "in the highest regard."

An official involved in Carlucci's personnel selection said he doubted there would be anything like a wholesale ouster of NSC aides, although he added that several NSC offices would be "upgraded" by appointment of more senior and experienced people as their chiefs. The jurisdiction of some NSC offices may be changed as part of a reorganization, it was reported.

Among the other NSC changes confirmed by official sources were the selection of Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell, a former military assistant of Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, as Carlucci's senior deputy, and the departure of the NSC's acting director, Alton G. Keel Jr., and its executive secretary, Rodney B. McDaniel.